

Joint News Release

Idaho Department of Water Resources

Snake River Basin Adjudication District Court

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SRBA Court to Convene Special Session in Blackfoot

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The Snake River Basin Adjudication Court has settled over 114,000 water right claims across Idaho since the Court came into existence nearly 20 years ago. Now, with the end in sight, Eastern Idahoans with claims in the SRBA will have a chance to learn more about the process and observe the proceedings themselves when Judge John M. Melanson convenes an official public session of the court in Blackfoot, on Thursday, April 21, 2005.

The session will be held at the Bingham County Courthouse at 501 N. Maple in Blackfoot. The session starts at 10 a.m. with a public information meeting, which includes information about the adjudication process and the time line for processing claims. Idaho Department of Water Resources and SRBA Court representatives will be on hand to answer questions.

Starting at 1:30 p.m., Judge Melanson will convene the SRBA Court for its regular monthly status conference, when the court deals with a variety of legal elements in the SRBA Court proceedings.

“The decisions that will come out of this adjudication process will have far-reaching effects on thousands of water users,” said Judge Melanson. “I feel it is important that the public have the opportunity to see the process first hand.”

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The SRBA was launched in 1987 to sort out claims to water in the Snake River Basin – a geographical area encompassing approximately 87% of Idaho. Recommendations have now been prepared on more than 90% of all claims filed in the SRBA.

“It’s important for Eastern Idahoans with SRBA claims to learn more about the procedure and to get a better understanding of just how their claims will be processed,” said Dave Tuthill, SRBA manager for IDWR. “They also have the chance to review the technology involved, learn about the overall status of adjudication and to see the timelines we are following.”

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